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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Ezell elected new NAMB president

ATLANTA (BP and local reports) — Kevin Ezell, pastor of Highview Church in Louisville, Ky., was elected to serve as the third president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in a special called meeting of NAMB trustees on Sept. 14 at an Atlanta-area hotel.

Trustee chairman Tim Dowdy, pastor of Eagle's Landing First Church in McDonough, Ga., did not release the trustee vote count. Ezell replaces Geoff Hammond, who resigned on August 11, 2009.

"I am honored and humbled that the trustees put this confidence in me," said Ezell, age 48, immediately following the meeting. "I will do everything I possibly can to honor the Lord in this and to lead the board to a place where it is as effective as it possibly can be."

Ezell said he sensed God's call to the role partly because of what can be accomplished through NAMB. "I see the potential NAMB has if its energies and resources are focused in the right direction," Ezell said. "I am looking forward to being able to give a very clear vision for it. You rarely have the opportunity to have this big of a Kingdom impact."

However, a pair of state convention executive directors voiced concern over Ezell's commitment to Southern Baptist missions efforts after his church's Cooperative Program and missions offerings contributions were released.

David E. Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, opposed the nomination of Ezell in a Sept. 9 open letter to NAMB's trustees.

"This is not meant as a personal attack on Dr. Ezell," Hankins wrote. "I would have the same concern about any candidate for NAMB who had a similarly poor record" of supporting Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program channel of missions and ministry along with another key source of NAMB funding, the annu-



EZELL ELECTED — North American Mission Board trustee Keith Warden (left), pastor of First Church in Picayune, talks with Kevin Ezell, pastor of Highview Church in Louisville, Ky., after the Sept. 14 trustee meeting where Ezell was elected as NAMB's next president. (Special photo courtesy of NAMB)

al Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

According to information from the 2009 Annual Church Profile maintained by LifeWay Christian Resources, Highview Church gave \$140,100, or 2.2%, through the Cooperative Program from undesignated receipts of \$6,270,057. The church gave \$10,000 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions and \$50,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Highview Church uses what has become known as the independent model, whereby denominational giving is minimized and missions funds are retained by the church to independently fund its own missions efforts.

"There are many excellent pastors with an SBC affiliation who have chosen to go a more independent route with their churches' mission spending," Hankins wrote. "I am thankful for every success they have brought to the Kingdom but I believe, by their negligible cooperative denominational giving, they have removed themselves from consideration as SBC entity leaders..." wrote Hankins, a former vice president for Cooperative Program with the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville.

"I am concerned that a NAMB president who has chosen the independent model will send a chilling message to the thousands of Southern Baptist congregations who have been led by their pastors and their denomination to believe that generous support for our cooperative mission funding processes is the good and right thing to do," Hankins wrote.

"Dr. Hankins has a gracious and kind assessment of the situation and he is also clearly logical," said Arkansas Baptist State

Convention executive director Emil Turner Sept. 10 in the Arkansas Baptist News.

"It seems surprising to me that the search committee would recommend someone whose level of support for the North American Mission Board through the CP and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering could not sustain the work of NAMB were it to be duplicated widely across the convention," Turner said.

Mississippi Baptists were not represented on the search committee.

According to news reports, Ezell responded to critics of his nomination to head NAMB by telling his Highview Church congregation on September 12, "Typically those are bloggers who live with their mother and wear a housecoat during the day. Just ignore them, but I apologize if you are hurt by anything that they might say about me or indirectly about you."

Statements reaffirming the nomination of Ezell were issued by the chairman of the Southern Baptist entity's trustees and the chairman of the search team.

"The members of our search committee were drawn to Kevin Ezell because it is clear that he has a heart for SBC missions and a heart for reaching North America for Christ," Dowdy said. "This passion has been demonstrated through the millions of dollars he has led his church to give to church planting and other Southern Baptist mission causes in the years he has been at Highview."

"Kevin has been a loyal Southern Baptist and I believe he will help NAMB continue to work through the long-standing partnerships we have had and help us



CONGRATULATIONS — Bryant Wright (right), president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga., congratulates Kevin Ezell (left) and his wife Lynette during a break in the Sept. 14 trustee meeting where Ezell was elected as next president of the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga. (BP photo)

See Ezell, page 6



Bangladeshi Christians endure isolation

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (BP) — Buddhist extremists detained eight Chakma Christians, members of a Baptist church in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, for four days in August.

The extremists held the men — a pastor, church secretary, village leader, and five church members — captive in a Buddhist temple to attempt to force them to return to Buddhism, reported Christian workers Grady and Josette Lindem (not their real names).

During their captivity, the Buddhist extremists forced the men to adopt a Buddhist lifestyle and worship. The Christian believers had to wear Buddhist robes, shave their heads, bow down before a statue of Buddha, and clean the temple, the Lindems said.

The extremists threatened the believers with severe beatings and even death if they tried to escape.

The men's wives had orders to bring food twice a day, the Lindems said. The extremists threatened the women with severe punishment or death if they refused to comply with their requirements of showing honor to Buddha. The women had to first bow down to a statue of Buddha, present food to the statue, and give food to the Buddhist priests before they were allowed to give food to their husbands.

The Christians, detained Aug. 23, originally were told they would be confined to the temple for seven to 15 days, but after four days in captivity the men were released under orders that they remain Buddhist.

"They are not allowed to pray to Jesus nor read Bibles, but they say they are still Christian in their hearts," Josette Lindem said.

Chakmas people

Both the extremists and the Christians are Chakmas. Although most Chakmas are Buddhists, about 3,000 Chakmas are evangelical Christians, said Burt Galvin (not his real name), who for several years served among tribal peoples in Bangladesh.

Recently, 10 new Chakma churches began and about 300 Chakmas professed their faith in Jesus, the Lindems said.

The Chakma people group is concentrated in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, an area that was specifically reserved for indigenous people groups in southeastern Bangladesh during British colonization. The Chakma people are among many tribal people groups who inhabit the area.

Many Chakmas feel they are losing their national identity with the migration of Bangladeshi Muslims into the tribal lands, the Lindems said.

When British India was partitioned in 1947, the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) became part of East Pakistan. Prior to East

Pakistan winning its independence from West Pakistan to become the country of Bangladesh in 1971, the Pakistani government allowed Muslims to migrate to the CHT, which previously had been protected for tribal peoples, Grady Lindem said.

At that point, the tribal people in the hill tracts lost the autonomy or recognition they previously had. This sparked guerrilla warfare and the two major political parties in the area fought the resettlement, the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) and the United People's Party of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The government signed a truce in 1997, but many tribal people still feel the government has not upheld its end of the deal, said Finn Aurora (not his real name), an agricultural specialist who works with tribal groups in the hill tracts.

Persecution

"The stories of persecution you're reading about in the Bible and studying in Sunday School lessons isn't just the history of Christianity. I just left speaking to some people who are living that," Aurora said he told his home church during a recent visit to the United States.

In the past several months, persecution of Chakma believers has increased, the Lindems said. "At times, when violence arises between the Bengalis [Bangladeshi Muslims] and UPDF over land disputes, the Chakma Christians are caught in the crossfire," Grady Lindem said.

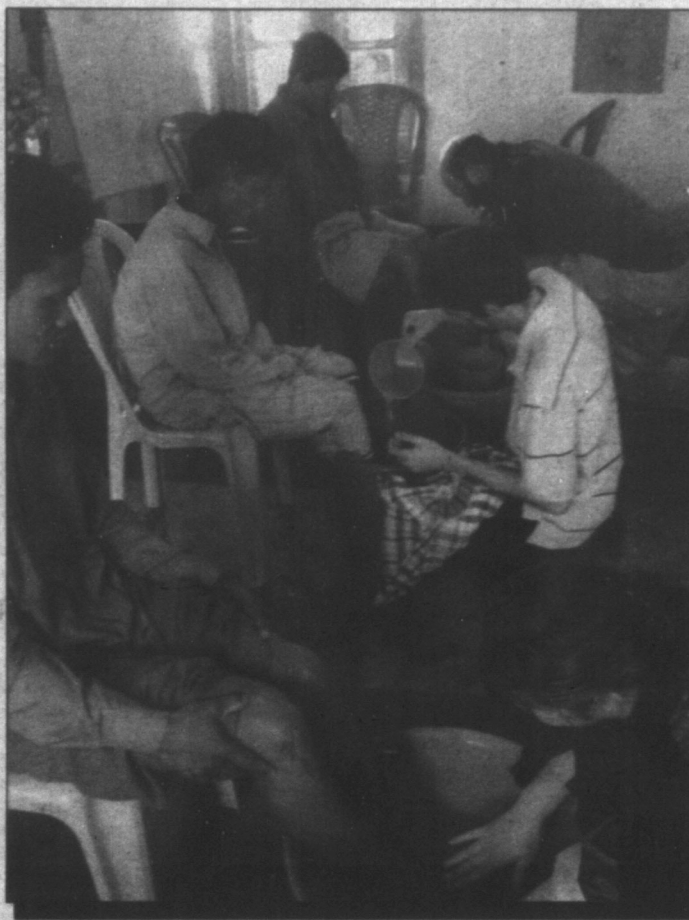
"The extremists do not feel that the Christians are actively supporting their goals of preserving the Chakma society, since Christians are primarily focused on sharing the Gospel."

The same extremist group that held the eight Chakma Christians captive in August took three Chakma Christians captive in April, Aurora said. The men, including a local pastor, were forced to don monk robes, worship Buddha and shave their heads.

"I appeal [to] all brothers and sisters in Christ please do something... Otherwise all Chakma believers have to return to Buddhist," Charbak Roy (not his real name), a pastor in the area, wrote to prayer supporters during the April imprisonment of the three believers. "I believe Almighty God [is] with them, but as brothers in Christ we should do according [to] our talent."

Pastor Balendra Sengupta (not his real name), who was severely beaten during his nearly month-long detention in April, went into hiding after his release. The Buddhist extremists have threatened him with severe punishment or death if he returns, Grady Lindem said.

During the April detentions, the extremists issued an ultimatum to Christians. They are first



MODELING JESUS — South Carolina volunteers, using Jesus' example, wash the feet of new believers in Bangladesh, where Chakma Christians have faced opposition from Buddhist extremists. (BP photo)

given one month to renounce Christianity and return to Buddhism, the Lindems explained. Then the extremists give a second warning with 15 more days to recant. At the end of the 15 days, Christians are given another month with a final warning.

"If they do not return to Buddhism, there will be serious consequences and possibly death," Grady Lindem said. "Christians who have the money and means flee their homes at this point."

Forbidden

Buddhist extremists have seized and destroyed Bibles of the Chakma Christians in the area and have forbidden Christians to read the Bible and

pray, the Lindems said. Christians are not allowed to enter Buddhist villages or use bridges, ferries, or roads in the area, and the names of the Chakma Christians' children are on a blacklist that prevents them from attending school.

Christians in the area are not allowed to buy food or sell crops they've harvested, the Lindems said. Buddhist merchants are forbidden from selling to Christians, and the fine is about \$140.

"Only when the Chakma Christians appear outwardly as Buddhists in their dress and do not openly pray, read the Bible or evangelize can they peacefully live in their villages and the children attend school," Grady Lindem said.

Looking back

10 years ago

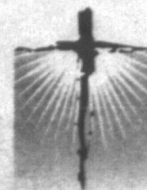
A pair of Baptist General Convention of Texas committees recommend that Texas Baptists defund the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries as well as two other SBC entities.

20 years ago

A total of 118 teams participate in the 1990 Baptist Softball Championship Tournament, with First Church, Glendale, and First Church, Amory, taking the top trophies in the men's division while Wellman Church, Bogue Chitto, and First Church, Batesville, sweep the women's division.

50 years ago

Friendship Mission, Pike Association, is constituted into a church August 28. The church was begun in an abandoned chicken house.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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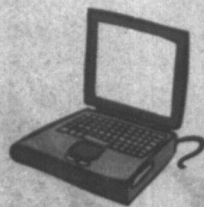
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2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
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4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Archie Herrin, Columbia
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Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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America's 21st century assembly line

A few weeks ago, this column reported on the network of American abortion clinics that handed dead babies over to employees of a company called Opening Lines, who were stationed in the clinics for the express purpose of cutting up the tiny bodies — some of them still quivering — and shipping the parts to private companies and researchers all over the world.

"It's the equivalent of the invention of the assembly line," bragged Miles Jones, owner of Opening Lines, to an ABC News 20/20 undercover reporter posing as an interested customer. "It's market forces. It's what you can sell it for."

From the state of Maryland comes recent confirmation of how widespread is this ghoulish business arrangement. Investigators there have shut down a filthy abortion clinic owned by physician Steve Brigham after the discovery of the bodies or body parts of 35 late-term aborted babies, some as advanced as 36 weeks gestation and apparently awaiting

shipment to other places. The Maryland Board of Physicians ordered Brigham to stop performing abortions in Maryland, where he is not even licensed to practice medicine. He also operates 14 other abortion clinics in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The Board also suspended the medical licenses of two of Brigham's physician co-workers. George Shepard Jr., a part-time medical director of Brigham's Maryland clinics, was charged with

unprofessional conduct and with aiding Brigham in defying credentialing mandates. Nicola Riley, who had held her Maryland medical license less than two months, was traveling from Utah to Maryland every other week to perform abortions at Brigham's clinics.

Law enforcement officials were tipped off about the squalid conditions inside Brigham's abortion clinics when an 18-year-old woman nearly died after a botched abortion. Instead of calling an ambulance for the woman after Riley punctured several internal body parts during the abortion of the 21-week-old baby — no abortion clinic owner wants an ambulance parked in front of their facility for everyone to see — Brigham and Riley packed her into a private vehicle and discreetly dropped her off at a local emergency room.

The young woman's injuries were so severe that she had to be airlifted to Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore for advanced treatment. Undeterred, Riley returned to the abortion clinic and performed the remainder of the day's scheduled abortions.

New Jersey authorities raided a Brigham clinic in that state, where Brigham has been accused of starting abortions and then shipping the patients to his clinics in other states for completion of the procedure. This apparently allowed him to circumvent New Jersey's regulations for abortion clinics in that state.

Brigham has quite a record. He has surrendered his medical license, had it rescinded, or was temporarily suspended in five states during the last 18 years. In July, the Pennsylvania Department of Health canceled approval for him to own clinics in the state because of his repeated use of unlicensed health care providers.

In a separate case, Maryland medical authorities have also suspended the medical license of abortionist Romeo Ferrer after his failure to care properly for a 21-year-old woman who died after he performed an abortion on her. An investigation revealed Ferrer gave her too much anesthesia and failed to monitor her condition according to his own policy.

Meanwhile, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) revoked the abortion facility license of a Shreveport clinic when an unannounced survey found the clinic did not perform physicals on women prior to their abortions and did not have qualified personnel to administer anesthesia or monitor patients' conditions while under anesthesia.

"The violations were so egregious and so consistent that we felt it was necessary to order them to cease and desist immediately," said Anthony Keck, LDHH's interim secretary, as reported in The Shreveport Times.

These are the clinics our young women are trusting to take care of them, even if the express intent is to kill their babies. They are run by crooks and the bottom feeders of the medical profession, under the filthiest conditions possible, who are willing to chop up babies for profit.

We wouldn't tolerate this type of behavior from any other enterprise allowed to conduct business in this country. When it comes to the abortion business, when will we finally decide enough is enough?

It won't be soon enough for millions of babies and their mothers. Think about it.

Sources: Baptist Press, The Philadelphia Enquirer, and The Shreveport Times.

What are the two things that people say you should never talk about in polite company? Religion and politics.

Why is that? I believe it is because both religion and politics are about controversial positions. One person takes the position that Jesus is Lord and the only way to salvation. Another person might take the position that Jesus never even existed. It is hard for those two people to have a polite conversation about religion because their positions are so opposite.

Politics is also a controversial thing. There is perhaps nothing more unpleasant than for a Sunday School class discussion to turn into a political argument over the president and his policies.

Southern Baptists have always prided ourselves on being people of the Book. That is, we believe in the inerrant Word of God, the Bible, and take the Bible as our cue for doctrine and methodology. So what does the Bible say about politics?

The English word, politics, is not even found in the Bible (it comes from a Greek word, polis, meaning city-state). In fact, the Bible doesn't use the words ballot box, voting, primaries, political parties, candidates, president, legislature, or Congress, either.

GUEST OPINION:



Does God care about politics?

By David Shelley, pastor
Smith Springs Church, Nashville

Does that mean that God doesn't care about political things? Quite to the contrary. The Old Testament prophets spent nearly all of their time lobbying the kings, by the direct command of God. The Bible tells us God created three institutions:

- The family was created in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2)
- The church was created by the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2)
- The government was created with the first King of Israel, Saul (1 Samuel 10-12).

One would think that if God gave mankind three institutions, His children would place importance on all three. Churches and denominations spend lots of money and time, and lots of sermons are preached and books are written, on "doing church."

We spend lots of money and time, and lots of sermons are preached and books are writ-

ten, on the family. We have Bible study classes and conferences all the time designed to strengthen and shape the church and the family: marriage enrichment, parenting, church planting, missions.

What are our churches and denominations doing to strengthen and shape the government?

If you are still not convinced that God cares about politics, consider how many times His word addresses the subject. In the NIV Bible, there are 642 verses that refer to law, laws, and lawlessness. There are 211 verses that refer to judgment, judges, and judging, and 561 verses that speak about justice. There are 195 verses that talk about courts, 301 verses that talk about ruling and rulers, and 100 verses that speak of governing and government.

Remember what the Old Testament prophet Isaiah said

about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders" (Isaiah 9:6).

I think we can surmise that Jesus cares about government since it all sits on his shoulders. All in all, there are 2,010 Bible verses about the God-given institution of government.

God does care — very much — about politics. In this mid-term election season, it is imperative that Christians be the salt of the earth and light of the world in the electoral process. Learning where your candidates stand and voting based on biblical values is simply part of being good stewards of the blessings of being an American citizen.

Most of our brothers and sisters in Christ, across the world and throughout time, have lived under autocratic rule where they had no say in public policy. God has given Americans a rare blessing to be able to elect those who rule over us, so let's be good stewards of that blessing.

Shelley is pastor of Smith Springs Church in Nashville and author of *Church and State: Being Salt and Light in the Public Square*. He also is vice president or church and community relations for the Family Action Council of Tennessee (Factn.org). His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 23, 2010

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

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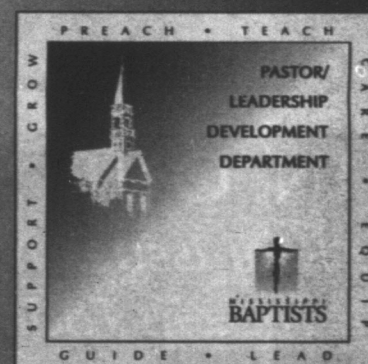


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MGOB FCAB.

DLYQ OMQFOU-ZFQ:
OMQFOU-QCABO

Clue: M = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Thirteen: Thirty-four

IMAGE

There is a sense in which everyone is image conscious. Even people who are not concerned about their looks or their image oftentimes want to protect the non-image that they have and thereby are concerned about their image. There have been books written and studies made about the way we dress having to do with projecting the image of who we think we are or at least the image we want people to think we are.

One book I read years ago pointed out that when a man gets ready to go to work and wears a suit, he basically covers from foot to neck. Everything about him except his hands and his head is covered, so what he puts on is the expression of what he wants people to see. Maybe it is the expression of what he wants them to think of him.

It is interesting to contemplate the projection of who we are, the presentation of ourselves, and the image that we have. We go to great lengths to present various images. It may be that we wear clothes designed to cover up the fact that we have a few pounds to lose. Others may comb their hair in one direction or another, spike it, shave it, or elongate it to help express who they are. Then, of course, some folks, particularly ladies, paint, plaster, and design their features to look their best — which seems to be a good thing.

The other day I heard about a fellow who all of his life had been very conscious of his image and wanted to look younger. Although he had come to the place in life



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

where he now had false teeth, he went back to his dentist to see if he could have braces put on his false teeth because it would make him look younger. I got to thinking about this image projection thing because of so many of our churches welcoming and inviting people to come because of their casual dress.

I understand the issues and the principles involved and that there may be some truth to the fact that people would prefer coming to a church and being a part of a congregation where there are not strict rules of high falutin' dress wear. It could be very helpful in providing an atmosphere that is more relaxed, comfortable, and easier to fit into for the lady who may think that her dress is not up to the standards of other ladies in the church, or for the dear brother who may not own a suit. They may feel at ease and a part of the casual dress family.

The very reason a church may go to a comfortable setting of casual dress may create the same awkwardness for some other folks. What if somebody shows up for church wearing a suit or a little bit finer dress than other folks are wearing? Do people go out of their way to make them feel uncomfortable? I can assure you from personal experience that has

happened many times. I honestly do not know how many times it has happened to other folks, but there have been times when plenty of folks have let me know that I am out of place because of my suit or even my sport coat.

I think of James as he writes about this dilemma in the first century. He warns the church about welcoming somebody who is well-to-do and dressed in finery, while ostracizing and shunning someone who obviously appears to be poor and maybe less affluent. The point he was making is that we are assessing people, possibly their character, and maybe even the value of their significance in a wrong way. I would simply point out that seeking to be open, friendly, and welcoming because of dress could be used in the opposite way because someone is not dressed like we think he/she should be.

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul said, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved," (3:12-13). Then the apostle gives us a wardrobe of garments that the Christian should wear. None of them have to do with the latest fashion, the coolest fashion,

or the most dressed-up or dressed-down fashion, but they are the unchanging fashions that all of us need in our wardrobe. When he says, "to put on," he is literally using Greek terminology which means to put on a coat or put on your shoes. These are the glorious garments of the people of God. Here is what he says for us to put on: bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another. It is an undeniable fact that if the people of God were to dress up with these wonderful qualities, we would have an impact on this world regardless of whether we have on the external clothes of a tux or tennis shoes.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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Growth Spiral Conference

November 16, 2010 • Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg • 9-11:30 a.m.

Target Audience:

- Pastor
- Minister of Education
- Sunday School Director

Led by Ken Marler

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Register by November 1

Need more information?

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Sunday School Department

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SEMINARY EXTENSION BREAKFAST

for Seminary Extension
and Associational
Missions Directors

Tuesday, October 26
at 7 a.m. in the
Baptist Building Chapel

**WE LOOK FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!**

If you are already directing a center or if you are interested in starting a center in your association, please join us for a time of fellowship and sharing.

Hosted by the Pastor/Leadership
Development Department

November 8-10 Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville

STUDENT MINISTERS RETREAT

We've enlisted the best "coaches" for our retreat who will challenge us and sharpen our ministry skills. Networking and fellowshiping with fellow servants in student ministry combine to make this the place to be November 8-10. Whether you serve full or part time on church staff or are a ministry volunteer, I hope you'll join us for this year's retreat.

Ken Hall, Student Ministry Consultant, MBCB

SPEAKERS:

Richard Ross, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Allen Jackson, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

WORSHIP LEADER:

John Blackwell, FBC, Olive Branch, Student Minister

A couple of break-out sessions will be available for spouses. Child care will be available during morning and afternoon sessions only by advance reservations.

Contact Rene Edwards, Discipleship and Family Ministry for more info: 601-292-3283, 1-800-748-1651 or redwards@mbcb.org

2011 AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011 – 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

• Area 5 FBC, 431 N. State Street, Jackson, 39201 Wyndy South O-801-292-3272

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011 – 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

• Area 2 Harrisburg BC, 4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd. Mignon Williamson C-662-842-6917
Tupelo, 38801

• Area 4 Fairview BC, 127 Airline Rd., Columbus, 39702 Slater Murphy C-662-328-2924

• Area 6 Poplar Springs Dr. BC, 4032 Poplar Springs Dr. Michael Gibson C-601-485-5106
Meridian, 39305

• Area 7 FBC, 1700 Delaware Ave., McComb, 39648 Jane Wilkinson C-601-684-2971
Bruce Pruitt

• Area 8 FBC, 607 W. 5th Street, Laurel, 39440 Marilyn Huff H-601-763-8731

• Area 9 FBC, 902 Live Oak Ave., Pascagoula, 39567 Michaelle Harrison C-228-762-2343

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011 – 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

• Area 1 Longview Heights BC, 4501 Goodman Rd. Ada Cates C-662-895-1900
Olive Branch, 38654 Blake Krumalis

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2011 – 9:30 A.M. - NOON

• Area 3 Emmanuel BC, 245 Meadowbrook Rd. Barry Worrell C-662-226-5316
Grenada, 38901

• Area 3 North Greenwood BC, 615 Grand Blvd. Patricia Ethridge C-662-453-2801
Greenwood, 38930

• Area 6 Cartersville BC, 115 Cartersville Rd., Petal, 39465 Kristopher Smith C-601-584-9457

For more info, contact Wyndy South, Church Music Department, 601-292-3272 or wsouth@mbcb.org



Mississippi
BIVOCATIONAL/SMALL CHURCH
MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

MBCB BIVO COUNCIL

Monday

October 25, 2010, 3 p.m.

Sky Room

4th floor, Baptist Building

BIVO Banquet & Dialogue

"What's Happening in Your Life,
Your Family and Your Church?"

Monday, October 25

5 p.m.

Sky Room

4th floor, Baptist Building

For all Mississippi
bivocational/small church
MINISTERS
AND THEIR WIVES

We will break at 6:30 to
attend the Pastors
Conference at FBC
Jackson

Please E-mail or call Kay McDonnell
(kmcdonnell@mbcb.org or
601.292.3305; 1.800.748.1651, ext.
305) to confirm your attendance.

There is no cost for the meal.
This event is underwritten by the
Pastor/Leadership Development Department
of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

IN OUR SHOES:

*The Real Issues Ministers' Wives
Face in Today's World*

MINISTERS' WIVES CONFERENCE

Monday, October 25, 2010, FBC Chapel, Jackson

1:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Speaker: Rachel Lovingood
Women's Ministry trainer, LifeWay

For more info, contact
Kay McDonnell at
800.748.1651, ext. 305,
601.292.3305, or E-mail
kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

NAMB post filled, but IMB still searching for leader

TAMPA, Fla. (BP and local reports) —North American Mission Board trustees elected Kentucky pastor Kevin Ezell as that Southern Baptist entity's new leader on September 14, but the International Mission Board (IMB) is still searching for "God's man" to fill the board's presidency, trustee chairman Jimmy Pritchard said during the trustees' Sept. 14-15 meeting in Tampa, Fla.

Fifty-one new missionaries also were appointed and efforts to balance the 2011 budget were discussed.

The meeting was held just short of the first anniversary of the board meeting in Jacksonville, Fla., when Jerry Rankin announced plans to retire after 17 years as IMB president.

Rankin, a native of Clinton and graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, officially retired on July 31 after 17 years as head of the entity and more than three decades of missionary service. IMB trustees appointed executive vice president Clyde Meador to serve as interim president when Rankin retired.

"This is the most crucial position that a man can hold on the face of the planet," said Pritchard, who also leads the 15-member presidential search committee, "and because of that, [choosing a new president] shouldn't be easy."

"Our pledge to you is that when we do ... stand before you ... [to present our presidential nominee], we're going to have full confidence that we're presenting God's man."

Pritchard, pastor of First Church in Forney, Texas, thanked trustees for their

patience and prayers as the search committee continues its work. "We have 5,000-plus missionaries praying for us ... we have people all over the Southern Baptist Convention praying for us, and we have a great [search] committee who love God and love one another," Pritchard said.

Mississippi Baptists are not represented on the search committee.

"We're working together. We have one purpose and that is to find God's man. Are we there yet? No, but by God's grace we're going to get there."

In other business, trustees received a draft of the IMB's 2011 budget, which financial chief David Stevenson said leadership is still working to balance.

"You will recall that we used \$7.5 million from our contingency reserve to balance the 2010 budget. We simply cannot afford to do that again," Stevenson said. He expressed gratitude for an increase in the 2009 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, but lamented declines in both investment revenue and Cooperative Program giving, the latter of which is down at least four percent this year.

Pritchard said the problem isn't financial, but spiritual. "How sad it is when we have people who want to go but we can't afford to send them," Pritchard said. "The issue is not that we [Southern Baptists] can't afford it, but that we just don't want to foot the bill... What will solve our problem is a good dose of spiritual awakening in our churches."

Bryant Wright, Southern Baptist Convention president and pastor of Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta,



SEEKING GUIDANCE — International Mission Board trustees meeting in Tampa, Fla., on September 14 gather around members of their presidential search committee to pray for wisdom in their search for the next leader of the Southern Baptist entity. (BP photo)

Ga., spoke to trustees about the rise and fall of history's great empires — from the Egyptians to the United States — comparing their relatively short-lived earthly reign with the eternity that is the kingdom of God.

"What is the Kingdom of God? ... It is wherever Jesus reigns. If Christ reigns in your life, the Kingdom of God is there. If Christ reigns in your family, the Kingdom of God is there," Wright said. "I hope Southern Baptists are going to return to Christ as their first love... The fact is that the Kingdom of God is not

going to come here on earth... until the church has completed its mission."

Trustees concluded the Tampa meeting with the Sept. 15 appointment of 51 new long-term missionaries during an evening service at Bell Shoals Church in Brandon, Fla. The appointments bring the number of IMB missionaries serving around the world to 5,201.

The next trustee meeting will be Nov. 9-10 in Greensboro, N.C. Calvary Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., will host a missionary appointment service on Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- 1. Beulah Church, Lexington:** Homecoming, Sept. 26; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Tom Killgore, speaker; THUNDER and local talent, music; Lyn Nations, pastor.
- 2. West Heights Church, Pontotoc:** Homecoming, Sept. 26, 8:30 and 11 a.m.; potluck meal, 11 a.m. and noon, followed by afternoon singing; James Spencer, speaker.
- 3. Corinth Church, Heidelberg:** Revival, Oct. 3-6; Sun., morning service followed by lunch and afternoon service; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Brill, speaker; Chris Wells, pastor.
- 4. Emmanuel Church, Newton:** Revival, Oct. 3-6; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and singing; 6:30 p.m. nightly; Tommy Anderson, speaker; Merrill Cassel, music.
- 5. Harmony Church, Walnut:** 150th anniversary, Sept. 26; old fashion day services, 10 a.m. - noon, followed by lunch and games, fellowship, and fun; previous pastors and ministers, speakers.
- 6. Trinity Church, Laurel:** Revival, Sept. 26-29; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Valton Douglas, speaker; Keith Yelverton, pastor.
- 7. Hope Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, Sept. 26; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner; Kiely Young, speaker; William Crenshaw, music.
- 8. First Church, Lumberton:** Revival, Sept. 26-29; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds at 11 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Dean Register, speaker; Phillip Butler, music; John Sapp, pastor.
- 9. Corinth Church, Carthage - Singleton community:** Homecoming, Oct. 10; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; David Wilkinson, speaker; Barbara Henry, music.
- 10. New Hope Church, Foxworth:** Homecoming, Oct. 3; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch, and 6:30 p.m.; Tommy King, speaker; Don Blakeney and Calm Assurance, music.
- 10. Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle:** 125th anniversary, Oct. 3; services, 10 a.m., with a certificate presentation by the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, opening of a time capsule, and historical documentary of the church, followed by a potluck lunch and afternoon singing; Sam Jones, speaker; Reggie and Ladye Love Smith, music.
- 11. First Church, Benndale:** Homecoming and 50th anniversary, Oct. 3; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner and singing; Ray Hathcock, speaker; Forever Changed and Rocky Creek Country Boys Gospel Group, music.
- 12. Smyrna Church, Hazlehurst:** Homecoming, Oct. 3; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Robert Hanvey, speaker; Born Again, music.
- 13. Parkway Church, Kosciusko:** 50th anniversary, Oct. 3; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch and singing; Billy Williams, speaker; Chris Cauthen, music.
- 14. Sunrise Church, Carthage:** Homecoming, Sept. 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch. Speaker, Alton Hednett
- 15. Oak Grove Church, Neshoba Association:** Revival, Sept. 26-29; Sun., 5:30 p.m. with mini-concert; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Higginbotham, speaker; Eddie Pilgrim and Family, music.

Sandy Hook Church, Sandy Hook: Revival, Sept. 26-29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Michael Knippers, speaker for Sun. morning; Argile Smith, speaker for Sun. evening through Wed. Sherri Lawley, music.

Beat Line Church, Newton Assoc.: Revival, Sept. 26-29; Johnny Collins, speaker; Mark Spence, music.

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On October 8th and 9th 2010, Meadowview Baptist Church of Starkville, will host *Marriage Tune Up* at the Starkville SportsPlex, 405 Lynn Lane, Starkville.

One of the most sought after couples in the area of marriage and family enrichment, Jeff and Debby McElroy, offer a variety of conferences that have been used across the nation to revive the family and unite the family of God.

It's About Family, It's About Hope, It's About Time

Register at mbestark.com by clicking "Save the Date!"

Pray this day for...

September 24 - October 7, 2010

"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD bestows favor and honor: no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless."

Psalm 84:11

Pray for: (1) a team from **Sturgis Baptist Church** traveling to Thailand, Sept. 26-Oct. 9, to participate in prayer and evangelism ministry; (2) a team of six Mississippi Baptist ladies traveling to Japan, Sept. 27-Oct. 7, to minister among the lost.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST COLLEGE DAY (MBCB Emphasis)

Pray that a team of 11 Mississippi Baptists traveling to SE Asia, Oct. 3-12, will be a blessing to missionaries and their children as they work as support for a missionary retreat.

Pray for a team from **FBC, Picayune**, as they travel to Senegal, Sept. 26-Oct. 9, to be involved in evangelism and church planting.

Pray for a team from **Desoto Hills Baptist Church in Southaven**, as they travel to Cicero, N.Y., Oct. 4-11, to help renovate a building which is to become Lakeshore Baptist Church.

Pray for a missionary family and several national believer families in SE Asia forced to leave their homes due to people coming to know Jesus. Pray as they pick up the pieces and relocate, and for continued faithfulness among national believers despite persecution.

Pray for Student Day at the Baptist Building, Jackson (P/LD). Pray for our students during this very formative time of their lives and their faith.

Pray for the relief efforts of Christian organizations as they continue to spread the love of Jesus through the provision of physical needs to those in the wake of disasters.

Pray for Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS. Pray for God's direction at all of the meetings held during this week.

Pray for the IV Senior Adult Retreat, Philadelphia (D&FM). Pray that seniors catch a vision for the very unique opportunities which are best fulfilled through senior adults.

Pray for the leadership of our country (municipal, state and national) to seek the Lord's direction in the decisions they make. Pray for God to convict their hearts of any ungodly legislation that should be changed.

Pray for: (1) Special Ministries Retreat, Garaywa, 24th-25th (SS); (2) State Handbell Leadership Seminar, Pearl (CM); (3) College Student Conference, 24th-25th (CLGM).

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST COLLEGE MONTH (MBCB/Exec. Admin. Emphasis); Pray for: (1) the State Church Library Ministry Conference, FBC, Natchez, Oct. 1-2 (CS); (2) Baptist Nursing Fellowship, Garaywa (WMU); (3) Mother/Daughter Overnight, Garaywa, Oct. 1-2 (WMU).

Pray for a team from **FBC, Quitman**, as they travel to Honduras, Sept. 25-Oct. 1, to work with children and participate in food distribution and construction.

Pray as a team from **Southside Baptist Church, Yazoo City**, traveling to Mexico, Oct. 2-9, to be a part of and Operation Go project, a project to do Gospel distribution.



WORLD BRIEFING A YEAR IN REVIEW 2010

2010 UTTERMOST SPORTS WORLD BRIEFING

**Monday
November 29
6 p.m.-9 p.m.
Garaywa**

**Dinner
will begin at 6
Program
will begin at 6:45**

**RSVP by phone
405-651-4877
or E-mail
SendMe@UttermostSports.org**

You are cordially invited to attend the 2010 Uttermost Sports World Briefing, in partnership with, and sponsored by, the Mississippi Sports Missions Network of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Be prepared for an evening of celebration, fellowship, and enlightenment as David-Andrew Fos, President of Uttermost Sports, and representatives from Mississippi share spiritual insights and personal stories of how the Lord has used SPORTS as a tool to storm Satan's strongholds and bring the Truth to those who have had no other access to the Gospel.

11-4-94

MISS ALICIA MARTIN
Parents: Tom & Cynthia
Las Vegas

11-5-98

MR. CAMPBELL PUTNAM
Parents: Tracy & Genie
European Affinity Group

11-7-02

MR. JOHN THOMAS
Parents: J & C
Restricted

11-15-96

MISS MARISSA BLEDSOE
Parents: David & Laurie
South America

11-19-98

MR. TAYLOR E. HODGINS
Parents: Ray & Cynthia
Eastern South America

11-30-03

MR. JOSIAH PUTNAM
Parents: Tracy & Genie
European Affinity Group

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PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

HOUSE TOPS

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Case for God's Involvement

Deuteronomy 8:2-5; Psalm 139:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11

By Rick Henson

God stepped out of nowhere, stood on nothing, and created everything. He made everyone and owes no one anything, yet our Creator intentionally made us to have a relationship with Himself. While many see God as some distant entity, the watchmaker who wound up creation and took a vacation, the Bible describes Him as a personal God, desiring to know us intimately and to be involved in all aspects of our lives.

God intervened in human history by creating a people from the offspring of one obedient man—Abraham. Centuries later, the children of Israel became captives in Egypt and God intervened through ten plagues, each one more devastating than the previous one. Each plague

demonstrated God's power over a corresponding Egyptian god, and the final plague proved God's power over death. The stories in Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy reveal an intervening, personal God, and a God seeking a people to know and serve Him.

King David wrote in Psalm 139:7-10, "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me," (KJV). The word translated "hell" in this passage is the Hebrew word *sheol*, which refers to the place



Henson

of the dead. David's use of this word acknowledged God's power over all of life and over the grave as well. The Hebrew word translated "lead" in the final verse of this passage, means to lead or direct someone down the right path.

God not only knows all about us, He wants to direct our lives. At the end of Psalm 139:23-24, David wrote, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting," (KJV). Though Psalm 139 clearly states that God knew every thought David had, and knew all about his heart, he still asked the Lord to examine his heart, his thoughts, and his ways. Acknowledging that God knows all about us is not equivalent to having a relationship with Him.

As we seek to engage the lost in a discussion about

God, we must help them go beyond their understanding of God as "the good Lord," or "the Man upstairs." God seeks a far more intimate relationship than wayward people feebly expressing that God is great. How do we know God desires more than just accolades and expressions of belief in His existence? We know because God revealed Himself in the person of Jesus Christ.

Jesus, according to John 1:1, is God, and was always God. God, in Christ, became a man so He could show His love for us all (Romans 5:8). Titus 2:14 describes Jesus, "who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works," (KJV).

Philippians 2:5, 7-8 reads, "Christ Jesus, took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross," (KJV). God stepped out

of eternity, climbed a cross, and redeemed the repentant.

Is God more to you than some distant deity who may have made everything? You can know Him personally only through trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ. John 1:12 reads, "But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name," (KJV). Intimate knowledge of God begins with acknowledging His right to our obedience and service.

"I asked Jesus how much He loved me. I asked Jesus how much He cared. 'Why, Oh Savior, why must I suffer? Why, Oh Jesus, these burdens I bare?' Then He stretched out His arms in the shape of a cross, and He showed me His hands and side, and told me the cost He paid, for sinners such as I; far too great a price.

I asked if He loved me, for His answer He died."

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

God's Power Changes Relationships

Ephesians 2: 11-22

By Melleen Moore

As the word 'remember' comes to mind, a second word quickly follows—remember what, remember who, and remember when. Whatever the second word, it is recalling the past. Most of us enjoy telling 'good' stories whether they happened yesterday or yesteryear. In most instances, it is good to recall as we learn from the past, however painful it may be.

Brought Near
Ephesians 2:11-13

Paul is reminding the Gentile believers of their past before their conversion experience identified "as in the flesh" (Ephesians 2:11, HCSB). The Gentiles were called 'the uncircumcised' by the 'circumcised' meaning the Jews. The Jews

and Gentiles always seemed to be at odds with each other. The Jews were overly proud of their heritage and religious ceremonies both of which the Gentiles resented. The Gentiles held in high esteem their own achievements and position on the world stage. Scripture identifies five specific conditions that made the Gentiles deprived—without the Messiah, without citizenship, without covenants, without hope and without God. So what next, we find the statement 'but now'. Warren Wiersbe parallels the 'but now' of Ephesians 2:13(HCSB) with the 'But God' of Ephesians 2:4(HCSB) with both terms focusing on the grace of God for the lost sinner. Moving on from the



Moore

relationship and intimacy with God. "Now everything is from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:18a, HCSB).

Joined Together
Ephesians 2: 14-18

The second benefit is joining together of Jews and Gentiles into one unity. Paul uses the double pronoun—He Himself (Ephesians 2:14, NLT) to emphatically show that Jesus is the true source of peace. He tore down the wall of hostility referring to the dividing wall in the temple that partitioned off the Court of the Gentiles from the area reserved for the Jews. Through Jesus' life, death, burial

and resurrection as a living man, He drew both Jew and Gentile together to become a new man as one in Christ. He proclaimed peace near and far to create unity of believers. The Jews considered themselves to be near to God having known about Him through the scriptures and in religious ceremonies but the Gentiles were far from Him as they knew little to nothing about God. Being one 'in Christ' both Jews and Gentiles can come through the same Holy Spirit to the Father. Because Jesus became sin and spilled His blood for all, our relationship with Jesus Christ can be one of power.

Built Together
Ephesians 2:19-22

Benefit number three is being built together through the Holy Spirit. Paul records the granting of citizenship of the Gentiles as members of God's household. The Gentiles are referred to by the pronoun "you" (Ephesians 2: 19, HCSB) as strangers and foreigners who are now in God's family. Paul uses terms from the building

trades to paint a picture of the church. Building structures were not a strange site in Ephesus as there were many pagan temples built there. The church's foundation is somewhat different as it is the apostles and prophets who were charged with proclaiming the gospel. The cornerstone is Jesus Christ who had given His life for Jews and Gentiles alike. The purpose of the cornerstone is to bind the building together just as Jesus had united the Jews and the Gentiles in the church. The holy sanctuary of the Lord being molded together by the Holy Spirit was designated for God's use. It pictures each believer as a stone precisely laid in the building. Each believer is the dwelling place of God's Spirit building together the body of Christ which is the church. The power of the Holy Spirit is only limited by the believer's relationship with Jesus Christ.

Moore is a member of Macedonia Church, Petal.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. **Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.**

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

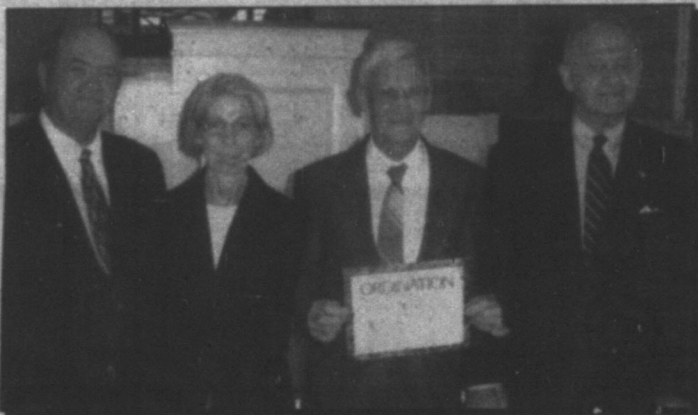
Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Hulsey anniversary



2. Kuyrkendall ordination

1. **38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg**, recognized David Hulsey for his 50th anniversary in ministry Sept. 4. The date coincides with his 50th wedding anniversary. Shown are Carolyn Hulsey, Hulsey, and pastor Kevin Shearer.

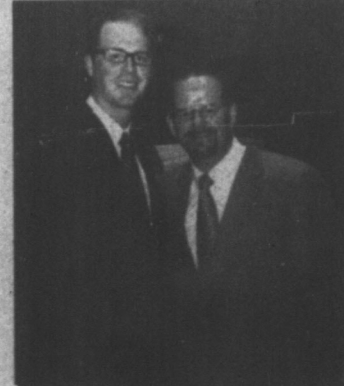
2. **Navilla Church, McComb**, ordained Carl Lee Kuyrkendall as deacon Sept. 12. Shown are Jimmy Deer, Sue Kuyrkendall, Kuyrkendall, and pastor Bob Lynch.

3. **First Church, Fannin**, ordained Joseph Bird to the ministry July 25. He has been called as youth pastor of Midway Church, Meridian. Shown are Bird and his father, pastor Ron Bird.

4. **Spring Hill Church, North Central Association**, ordained Jerry Todd as deacon Sept. 5. Shown are pastor Eugene Walden, Todd, and Carrie Todd.

5. **Liberty Church, Amite County**, recently had four generations of Dixon men to participate in the Men's Ministry Rally at Galilee Church. Shown are D.M. Dixon, David Dixon, Justin Dixon, and Drew Dixon.

6. **CORRECTION:** In the Sept. 9, 2010, issue of The Baptist Record, **Shiloh Church** was identified as being in Clay County. The church is located in Calhoun County. The Record regrets the error.



3. Bird ordination



4. Todd ordination



5. The Dixons

STAFF CHANGES

1. **Leesburg Church, Rankin Association**, has called Joseph Oster as pastor. He comes with his wife, Misty, and children, Paige, Payden, and Emily.

Ezell (Continued from page 1)

build new partnerships and new ways of taking Christ to North America."

Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Church in Pensacola, FL, and chairman of the trustees' seven-member search team that recommend Ezell, told Baptist Press, "Our team finds Dr. Ezell to be a loyal Southern Baptist mission supporter. I reject the accusation that he is an independent Baptist. Indiana Baptists [where Highview has a campus] do not see him as independent in his giving model. The Southern Seminary students in whom he invests time and money do not see him as independent. The church planting workers in the

New York Convention do not assess his work as independent.

"I am convinced Dr. Ezell can build NAMB into the mission agency Southern Baptists will be thrilled to support."

After the trustee vote, Ezell said one of his first priorities as North American Mission Board president will be to spend time with church planters.

"They are on the front lines and I want to do everything I possibly can to free resources and direct resources to them and help them succeed," Ezell said. "I love church planters. I like being around people who get in the ditch and do the work. That's who I operate

best with. So I look forward to connecting and investing in them."

Ezell is the immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, a former chairman of the SBC Committee on Committees, and a former member of Midwestern Seminary's trustee board. He holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth and a doctor of ministry degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He has led Highview Church since 1996.

Ezell and his wife Lynette have six children, three of whom are adopted from other nations.

Black leaders: end abortion funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP and local reports) — Black pro-life leaders have called on U.S. President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress to remember unborn children when they seek to revitalize the economy.

"We urge an immediate end to all abortion funding with taxpayer money," Day Gardner, president of the National Black Pro-life Union, said in a Sept. 9 written release. "Let's use our hard earned tax dollars to renew the spirit of our nation by helping [Americans] live — not die!"

Dean Nelson, executive director of the Network of Politically Active Christians, said legislators "who focus on the economy must ensure that their actions encourage the birth and not the termination of the next generation who will have to pay for all the debt we are now incurring."

Since taking office in 2009, Obama has revoked pro-life spending policies that barred federal funds for groups overseas that promote abortion. The federal government also has continued to grant money to abortion providers such as the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, which received more than \$200 million from the current federal budget.

Democrats in the U.S. Senate have also introduced legislation that will force military hospitals to provide abortion on demand, a practice that is currently prohibited by federal law. In a move to pressure pro-life senators, the Democrats have attached the legislation to a crucial military funding bill currently making its way through Congress.

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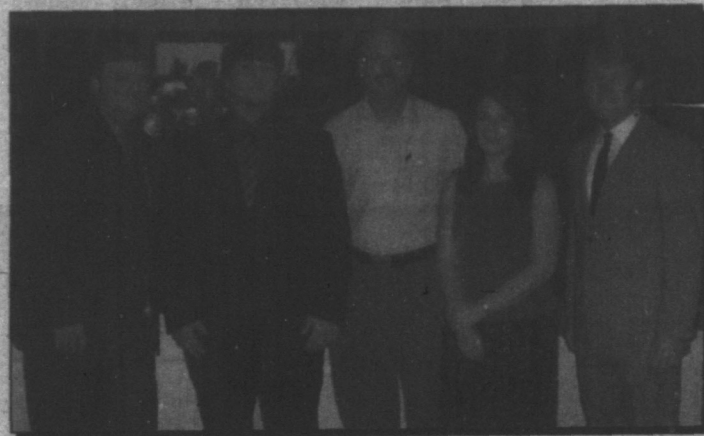
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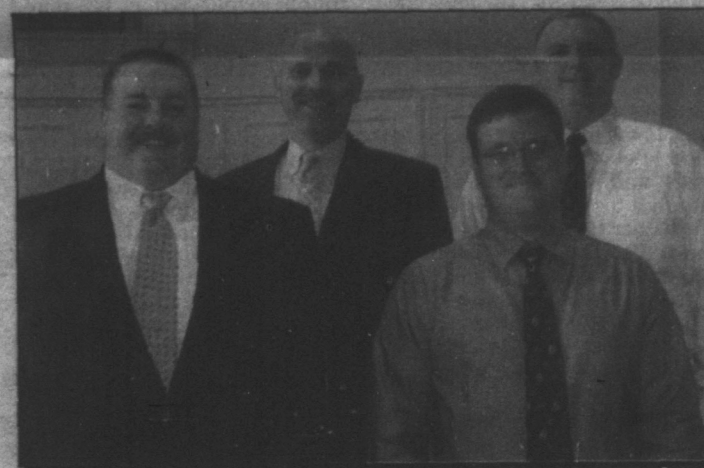
JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. First Church, Runnelstown



2. Bailey ordination



3. Calvary Church, Oak Grove



4. Madden Church, Madden

1. First Church, Runnelstown, recently ordained Nathan Brown and Bob Clark as deacons, and added Robert Bolling and George Lee Carter to the current deacon team. Shown, from left, are Brown, Bolling, Carter, and Clark.
2. West Heights Church, Pontotoc, ordained Nathan Bailey to the ministry Aug. 29. Bailey serves as youth pastor at Bartahatchie Church, Monroe Association. Shown are Phillip Lindsey, Bailey, Dan Bailey, Anita Bailey, and pastor David Hamilton.
3. Calvary Church, Oak Grove, ordained Earl Allmon and Terry McCain as deacons Sept. 12. Shown are McCain, pastor Jeff Floyd, Allmon, and Lance Williamson.
4. The Children in Action of Madden Church, Madden, recently collected items for Savanna Baptist Center during Christmas in August. Shown are the participants.
5. Pleasant Grove Church, Wayne County, recognized Bonnie Faye Malone, Laurel (shown), with a plaque for serving 65 years as a Sunday School teacher on Sept. 12.
6. County Line Church, Ovet, ordained two new deacons and added a third previously ordained deacon. Shown are pastor Johnathan McLemore (standing), and Charlie Grantham, Rudolph Adams, Everett Cole, Jr., Joel Powell, Herman Phillips, Glen Shoemaker, Henry Temple, Stencil Smith, and Ronnie Zumwalt. Temple, Cole, and Adams are the new deacons.
7. Vision Church, Petal, licensed William (Billy) L. James, Jr., and Lindon L. Green to the ministry Aug. 25. Shown are James, pastor Jimmy Clark, and Green.
8. Union Church, Tylertown, had several students participate in Centrifuge. Shown are the participants.
9. Bethel Church, Bogue Chitto, will celebrate Legacy Day on Sept. 26. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service 11 a.m., followed by finger food fellowship and music service. Damon Williamson, pastor.
10. Larue Church, Perkinston, will host the group, Answered Prayer, as special guests during a song service that will begin at 7 p.m. on Sept. 25. Local talent will also be featured.
11. LeMoyne Blvd. Church, Biloxi, will offer Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Sundays at 4:40 p.m., beginning Oct. 3.



5. Malone



6. County Line Church, Ovet



7. Vision Church, Petal



8. Union Church, Tylertown

**First Baptist Church
of Fannin**

FALL REVIVAL

SEPTEMBER 26TH
8:30 & 10:45 AM & 6 PM
SEPT. 27, 28 & 29TH @ 7 PM

FEATURING
DR. HAROLD BRYSON